REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16 and 17 are pending and rejected in this application.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,367,005 (Douty, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,203,397 (Bandyopadhyay), Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and submit that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance.

Douty, et al. disclose a strain relief cover on cable 10 that terminates at cable 12. Each cover member 14 and 16 includes an inwardly bowed, conductor gripping portion 22 having a plurality of inwardly directed integral teeth 24 thereon. The shape of the teeth is of little consequence to the functionality of the invention (column 2, lines 21-37). The Examiner has indicated that teeth 24 have a chiseled point even though Figs. 1, 4 and 5 show a trapezoidal cross section having a flat top surface with no point, which is also reflected in the Examiner's sketch.

Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine. Conductors 16 can be surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass, a portion of which is shown at 20 in the Fig. (column 5, lines 3-5).

In contrast, claim 1, recites in part:

> a plurality of pointed projections ... [each having] a chiseled point oriented substantially parallel with the direction in which said electronic conductors are oriented within said conductor.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty et al, Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Douty, et al. discloses a strain relief cover on a cable including a plurality of inwardly directed teeth. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine having cable surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. The Examiner has indicated that Douty, et al. has teeth

with a chisel point even though Figs. 1, 4 and 5 each show a trapezoidal cross-section with a flat top, which is also reflected in the Examiners sketch. Teeth 24 clearly have a flat top and do not have a chisel point. Assuming, arguendo, that Douty, et al. does have chisel pointed teeth, a position with which the Applicants disagree, the orientation of a point formed by an extension of teeth 24 would be traverse to the direction of the electrical conductors contained therein and not parallel to the conductors. Therefore, Douty, et al, Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of pointed projections, each having a chisel point oriented substantially parallel with a direction in which electrical conductors are oriented within the connector, as recited in claim 1.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the orientation of the chisel like teeth overcome the problem of fraying of the fiberglass sleeve in which the teeth come into contact. Another advantage of Applicants' invention is that by orienting the chisel teeth in a manner parallel with the electrical conductors, the conductors are separated during assembly and directed so that the chisel points do not pierce the insulation on the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 and claims 2-7 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 9-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Douty, et al. and Bandyopadhyay and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,156,514 (Wing, et al.), Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection, and submit that claims 9-14, 16 and 17 are in condition for allowance. Wing, et al. disclose a connector having pyramid shaped protrusions along the side of the connector interfacing with and piercing tape 31, thereby coming into contact with metal strip 38.

In contrast, claim 9, recites in part:

> a plurality of pointed projections on said inner surface, each said pointed projection including a ramped side extending farther from said inner surface in a direction away from said opening, two adjacent sides being adjacent to said ramped side and an other side opposite said ramped surface, said two adjacent sides, said ramped side and said other side extending from said inner surface... said other surface extending farther from said inner surface in said direction.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay, Wing, et al, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Douty, et al. discloses a strain relief cover on a cable including a plurality of inwardly directed teeth. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine having cable surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. Wing, et al. disclose a connector having pyramid shaped protrusions along the side of the connector interfacing with and piercing the tape, thereby coming into contact with the metal strip. Applicants' invention is an aggressive tooth that is not disclosed in the cited references in that the side opposite the opening of the connector extends away from the opening as it extends from the inner surface. This describes a tooth such as that shown in Fig. 5D of the application. Therefore, Douty, et al, Bandyopadhyay, Wing, et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of pointed projections on the inner surface, each pointed projection including a ramped side extending farther from the inner surface in a direction away from the opening, two adjacent sides being adjacent to the ramped side and an other side opposite the ramped surface, the two adjacent sides, the ramped side and the other side extending from the inner surface, the other surface extending farther from the inner surface in the direction, as recited in claim 9.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the shape of the pointed projections aggressively points away from the connector opening, thereby preventing the removal of the fiberglass sleeve that encloses the electrical conductors, once the connector is assembled.

Another advantage of Applicants' invention is that the orientation of the teeth overcomes the problem of fraying of the fiberglass sleeve in which the teeth come into contact. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 9 and claims 10-14 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 16 recites in part:

> a plurality of pointed projections on said inner surface, each said pointed projection including a ramped side extending farther from said inner surface in a direction away from said opening, two adjacent sides being adjacent to said ramped side and an other side opposite said ramped surface, said two adjacent sides, said ramped side and said other side extending from said inner surface... said other surface extending farther from said inner surface in said direction.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay, Wing, et al, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Douty, et al. discloses a strain relief cover on a cable including a plurality of inwardly directed teeth. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine having cable surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. Wing, et al. disclose a connector having pyramid shaped protrusions along the side of the connector interfacing with and piercing the tape, thereby coming into contact with the metal strip. Applicants' invention is an aggressive tooth that is not disclosed in the cited references in that the side opposite the opening of the connector extends away from the opening as it extends from the inner surface. This describes a tooth such as that shown in Fig. 5D of the application. Therefore, Douty, et al, Bandyopadhyay, Wing, et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of pointed projections on the inner surface, each pointed projection including a ramped side extending farther from the inner surface in a direction away from the opening, two adjacent sides being adjacent to the ramped side and an other side opposite the ramped surface, the two

adjacent sides, the ramped side and the other side extending from the inner surface, the other surface extending farther from the inner surface in the direction, as recited in claim 16.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the shape of the pointed projections aggressively points away from the connector opening, thereby preventing the removal of the fiberglass sleeve that encloses the electrical conductors once the connector is assembled. Another advantage of Applicants' invention is that the orientation of the teeth overcomes the problem of fraying of the fiberglass sleeve in which the teeth come into contact. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 16 and claim 17 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on: January 14, 2004.

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January 14, 2004
Date